



February 26, 2016

Wausaukee School Visit

Last Friday, I visited Wausaukee High School for a tour and a chance to talk with students and faculty.



It was a great opportunity and I was really impressed with what they are doing in Wausaukee - especially with the Northwoods Regional Technical Academy. About five years ago, the Wausaukee superintendent approached Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and started a partnership to provide students a full complement of elective classes. Wausaukee was among the first in the region to offer post-secondary education on site and they continue to be at the forefront offering more NWTC dual credits than any other school in the NWTC region.



Dual credit focuses on providing opportunities for high school students to take college level course work while in high school in order to get a head start on earning college credits while continuing to fulfill high school graduation requirements. At Wausaukee, they provide a wide variety of courses taught by both Wausaukee High School teachers and NWTC instructors. These courses include standard English composition, anatomy, and math classes, but also technical courses like welding, automotive repair, electromechanical engineering, and nursing.



This partnership with NWTC has many benefits. It allows high school students to complete college coursework and get a feeling for what it entails while receiving college credits. They also get an opportunity to learn via a hands-on educational experience in areas they have an interest in. It also saves students and parents money in tuition. Last year, this program saved families \$136,132. Finally, this program helps the community by producing a skilled workforce in high-need areas.



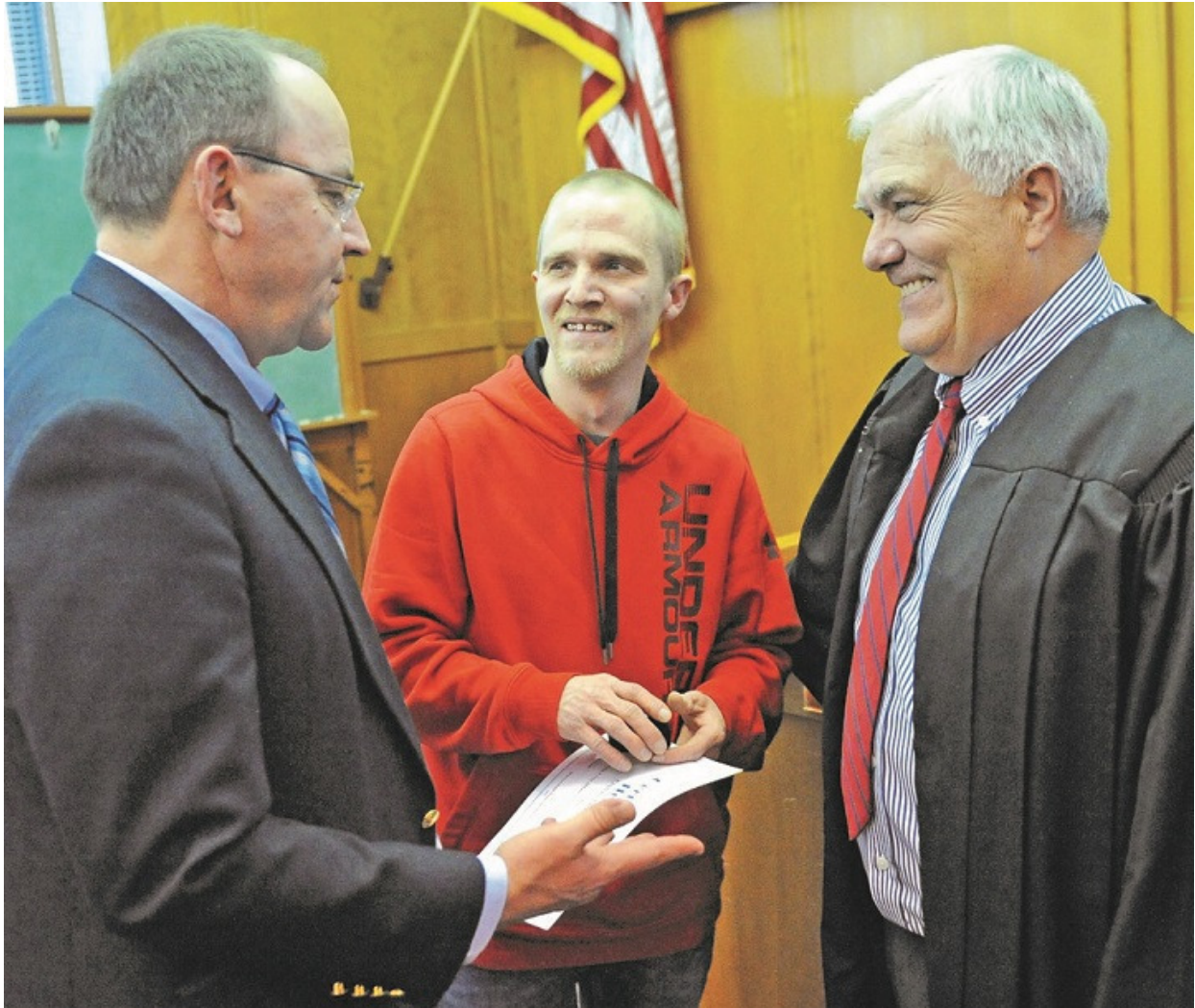
I'd like to thank Wausaukee Superintendent Ann Cox for the invitation. I would also like to thank both the instructors and students for sharing their thoughts on the program. It was a great experience and I wish you all the best of luck.

[More photos](#)

Marinette County Drug Court

Also on Friday, I visited the Marinette County Treatment Drug Court as they celebrated the achievements of Brandon Dodsworth, the first graduate of the program.

The Marinette County Treatment Drug Court Program is a court that is specifically designated and staffed to handle cases involving substance dependent adult offenders through an intensive, judicially-monitored program of drug and alcohol treatment, rehabilitation services, and strict community supervision. Drug Courts are built upon a unique partnership between the criminal justice system and drug treatment community, one that structures treatment intervention around the authority and personal involvement of a Treatment Drug Court Judge. Circuit Judge Jim Morrison presides over the Marinette County Drug Court. Judge Morrison and the Treatment Drug Court Team work together with each participant toward a common goal of breaking the cycle of drug/alcohol abuse and criminal behavior.



Credit: [EagleHerald/Rick Gebhard](#)

(State Sen. Tom Tiffany, R-Hazelhurst (left) talks with Marinette County Treatment Drug Court graduate Brandon Dodsworth (center) with Circuit Judge Jim Morrison during a ceremony Friday at the courthouse.)

Brandon Dodsworth started the program on October 21, 2014 after nearly overdosing on heroin. He was able to stay clean while attending probation and case management sessions, meeting regularly with Judge Morrison. He worked full time and tested for drugs and alcohol regularly. Brandon is the first graduate of the program and there are currently 16 other individuals working their way through the program as well. Those in attendance on Friday were able to see firsthand how Judge Morrison handles the Drug Court. Marinette County has been seeing an increase in drug offenses - especially heroin and opioids - and this program gives the court in Marinette County another tool in it's toolbox.

The mission of the Marinette County Treatment Drug Court is to improve the overall quality of life in the community by providing a court supervised multidisciplinary approach for substance dependent offenders that will enhance public safety, hold offenders accountable, reduce costs to the community, and transform offenders into positive contributing members of the community. It can be a more cost effective alternative to incarceration and I believe that you can find success stories across our state from individuals who have used the opportunity of programs like this, turned their lives around, and stayed clean.

Survey Results

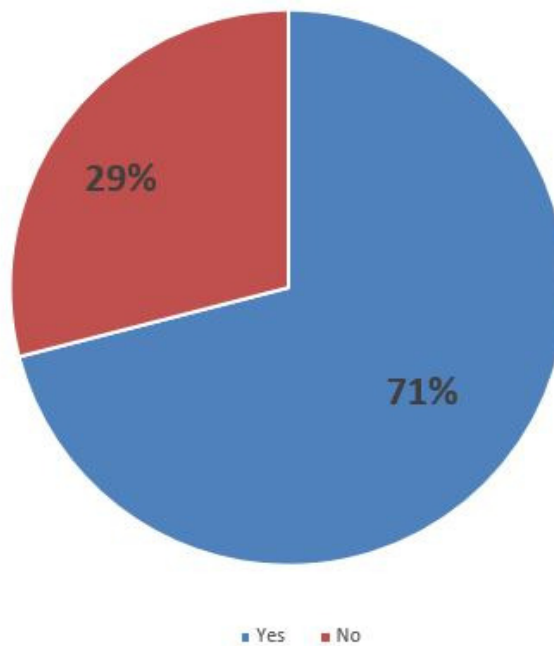
Many of you may have received my newsletter last fall. Included in this newsletter was a survey I asked you to fill out and return or fill out online. The surveys have stopped trickling in and my staff has taken the time to enter nearly 1,000 responses. I believe we may have received responses from nearly every zip code in the 12th Senate District and

I want to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey.

I will be sharing the data from the survey over the next few weeks, but I did want to share one interesting finding with you this week.

Of all the questions asked in the survey, the question asking respondents if they support more stocking of game fish in Wisconsin received the largest support with over 70 percent of people indicating they support the idea.

Question 5



With that in mind it is important to remember both public and private fish hatcheries play a part in stocking our lakes and rivers. Private aquaculture has contracted over the last couple years in Wisconsin even while it has grown nationally. I introduced Senate Bill 493 which will guarantee private fish farms have a place in supplementing natural reproduction of game fish in the future. Private and public aquaculture work hand-in-hand to maintain our fish supply and it is important private aquaculture is allowed to thrive. Senate Bill 493 will allow private aquaculture to continue stocking our lakes and rivers and supplying our bait shops while maintaining our strong environmental standards we expect in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum

The Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a week-long leadership training and career awareness program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with disabilities.

Being selected to attend the YLF is a distinct honor that you can be very proud of. Please take the time to apply - you'll have the time of your life!

YLF is for:

- Students who show leadership potential by being active in their school and community
- Students who have a disability (physical, learning, cognitive, emotional, sensory, etc.)

- Wisconsin residents
- Students who are currently sophomores, juniors or seniors in high school

Why Attend the Youth Leadership Forum?

- To give you a place to meet other students your age who are experiencing similar issues and concerns
- To help you increase your leadership skills so you can further your future goals and reach them
- To assist you in becoming a leader in your school and community.

Do you still have questions about YLF? If you do, check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information. If I'm interested, what do I do next?

- Complete the application
- Get 3 letters of recommendation that highlight your leadership skills
- Complete two essay questions

If you are interested in applying for the 2016 program, contact:

John Shaw
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
101 East Wilson Street, Rm. 219
Madison, WI 53703

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Start Date		Location
February 27	Ho-Drags on Ice	Rhinelanders
February 27	Winter Party	Presque Isle
February 27	Love Me Tender in Merrill	Merrill
February 27	Volunteer Fireman's Ball	Florence
February 27	4th Annual Blindfold Snowmobile Race	Phelps
February 27	Winter Experience Ice Oval Racing	Gleason
February 27	Loop Around the Lake	Minocqua
February 27 - 28	MASTERS Snowmobile Hillcross and Hill Climb	Florence

February 28	Kids' Fishing Jamboree	Land O'Lakes
March 5	Keyes Peak Winterfest	Florence
March 12	Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade	Rhinelanders
March 12	Pickerel-Pearson St. Patrick's Day Parade	Pickerel
March 19	Taste of Tomahawk	Tomahawk

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subjects of this e-update, please feel free to contact me.

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